

# ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
English District

VOL. LIV, NO. 60

SPRING 2016

## Call to Convention

The LWML English District 37th Biennial  
Convention is April 22-24, 2016!

We are calling all women of all ages to join us in  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Embassy Suites  
Philadelphia Airport  
9000 Bartram Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19153  
for:



**FREELY  
SOWING,  
SERVING  
& SHARING**  
**-Galatians 5:13**

*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.  
But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;  
rather serve one another humbly in love.*

Galatians 5:13

**N**ow is the time to make your plans to join the women of the English District at convention in Philadelphia! A convention packed full of excitement with missions speakers, Bible study, worship, singing, voting for new mission grants and officers, servant events, fellowship, and spiritual growth is in full swing!!

As Martin Luther said, "Everything that is done in the world is done in hope." and we are hoping that everyone reading this is planning to join us.

Registration materials have been sent to all English District congregations, to all zone and society presidents, and is available online at our English District website.

Also, the registration form is enclosed with this issue of the *ACCENT*. To access the website go to: [www.englishdistrictlwm.com](http://www.englishdistrictlwm.com).

Invite your family and friends to join you for the weekend and experience the joy of attending an LWML English District convention. Come early and enjoy the pre-convention tour of all the historical sites in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Zone is looking forward to hosting all our brothers and sisters in Christ!►

## Convention Goal and Objectives for 2016

### Convention Goal:

I will find encouragement in God's Word to freely sow, serve and share the Love of Christ.

### Convention Objectives: That all attendees:

Freely study the Word  
Freely serve one another in Love  
Freely share the Gospel.

*Dear Jesus, thank you for the wounds  
in your hands, now healed, and the beauty  
your grace had brought into my life.  
Use my hands to serve others in your name.*

*Amen*

**ACCENT Deadline: June 15, 2016.** Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618 or FAX to: 609.896.0341, or send me an attachment through e-mail at: [voorheescf14@gmail.com](mailto:voorheescf14@gmail.com)

## “Opportunities at Convention!”

Jan Simmons, LWML English District President  
janlwml@yahoo.com



Sharing is caring

**W**hen Christmas is over, a lot of people go into a depression. They feel that after weeks of shopping, decorating, and celebrations the New Year comes and it is winter once again. We go back to our daily lives, and for some of us cold and dreary weather. But to the Christian, it is just the beginning of Jesus' life. When he died on the cross, He took our sin, guilt and punishments upon Himself. His resurrection at Easter is the guarantee of eternal life. As Christians we need to get this message out to those who do not know the reason for Christmas.

Through our Lutheran Women's Missionary League English District conventions we give women the opportunity to find ways to share God's word. We can support missions around the world through the giving of our mites; to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At our LWML English District 37th Biennial Convention in April we will have the opportunity to adopt a mite goal and select mission grants to support. Also, we will hear from missionaries about their service, how they are spreading the Word, and how we can support them. We can make a difference in the lives of hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people just by using our hands and participating in the servant events at convention. On Friday morning, before the start of convention, you will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on activities for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM), and Orphan Grain Train.

Because we are not perfect, we sometimes get caught up in the stress of our daily lives, forgetting to focus on Jesus. At convention we will hear and study God's word through worship and Bible Study, and partake in the sacraments, giving us the support we need to share God's Word and its message of salvation. We are also given the opportunity to offer friendship, support, and encouragement to our sisters of the LWML who are attending, and share with others what Jesus has done in our lives.

Conventions are a lot of work and expensive, but look what can be experienced. It is hard to believe that in one weekend we have an opportunity to welcome the LWML women in our lives to grow in faith and relationships as sisters in Christ. I cannot write in words what you will experience, you will have to come and see for yourself. If you have never come to a convention before, this is the perfect opportunity; our sisters in the Philadelphia Zone are working very hard to make it an unforgettable experience. **Come! Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing.** As our scripture verse for convention states: *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.* Galatians 5:13

Join us at convention, help us get the message out. No more cold and dreary weather, let the Son shine! ►

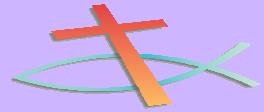
## New Treasurer on the LWML English District Board of Directors

**T**here is a new face on the LWML English District Board of Directors (BOD). She is not really new to the job of treasurer, just this biennium. After prayerful consideration, Sue Fleischmann has graciously agreed to complete the term of Ruthann McGowann who resigned in December. Sue was the LWML English District Treasurer from 2010-14 and is up-to-date on the policies and procedures of this office. For those of us who have been treasurers for the LWML English District board, we know this position is a big job. I cannot express how thankful I am that Sue was willing to take this job again, at such a critical time in our Biennium. *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:6-7.

Please keep Sue and the LWML BOD in your prayers, and that it will be a smooth transition into the treasurers position. Sue's contact information is listed below. We will miss Ruthann on the district board and will continue to keep her in our prayers.

**Please send all your mites to our new LWML English District Treasurer:**

**Sue Fleischmann—1425 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1612**  
**susan.fleischmann@mercer.com 412.344.3691 (h) 412.855.4151 (c)►**



I know, I know, this issue has been flooded with information about and invitations to the upcoming convention, but I too must gush about what is sure to be a fantastic event in Philadelphia. The convention committee has done a phenomenal job of choosing a hotel that is comfortable, inviting, close to the airport and not far from public transportation. At the Executive Board meeting in August I was a first time visitor to Philadelphia. Taking the red eye from Tucson I was able to spend an entire day getting a taste of the city prior to our meeting. The hotel graciously stored my bags while I walked 10 minutes up the road to the train station and headed into the heart of the city. On foot that day I was able to see: Independence Hall; the waterfront; classic row houses; the US Mint; the Betsy Ross House; historic cemeteries; the Court House; the classic LOVE sculpture; Reading Market and the Liberty Bell. Talk about a full day! Talk about a fun day! I encourage you to experience Philadelphia as part of your convention trip. It will not disappoint you.

I am even more certain that the convention proceedings will not disappoint you. From worship, song, Bible study, business meetings and servant events to fellowship, laughter and tears, by the grace of God you will be blessed. The heart of the matter is very much summed up in our theme: *Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing*. The blood of Christ has freed us to be women of God in service to each other, our families, our immediate contacts and the wider world. This freedom allows us to bask in the fullness of His grace while sharing the good news of His blood bought forgiveness. This sharing will come about as we prayerfully consider the seven mission grants on this year’s ballot and ultimately vote to fund the sharing of the good news through these ministries. It will also come about in our interactions with one another at convention and beyond. The powerful blessing of being women united in Christ *Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing* will not disappoint because the Christ who has freed us does not disappoint.

See you in Philadelphia!►

### **Young Woman Representative (YWR)!**

**YWR’s are needed for convention!!!** Information was sent to all English District congregations and can be found on our website. Invite your young women to join you in Philadelphia for the fun, fellowship and the opportunity of working with the LWML...

## **Our Mission Goal for the 2014-2016 biennium \$15,000**

- 1. New Campus Ministries at the University of Toledo & University of Pennsylvania—\$2,000 PAID**
- 2. Taking Jesus to the Streets and Sidewalk Sunday School—\$2,000 PAID**
- 3. Ministry to African Immigrants, Bethany Lutheran Church, Trenton, NJ—\$2,000 PAID**
- 4. Fund the Development and Training of Ethnic Women Leaders, LWML Heart to Heart Sisters English District—\$3,000 PAID**
- 5. Operation Barnabas, Catalina Chapter Tucson, Arizona—\$3,000 PAID**
- 6. Sanctus Lutheran Ministries, new mission start, Woodstock-Hickory Flats, Canton, Georgia—\$2,000 “Sadly, this ministry is no long viable.”**
- 7. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church for LMS Compassion Center, York, PA—\$1,000**

### **The Widow's Mite**

**J**esus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, *I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on.* Mark 12:41-43

## **"We're Still Growing"**

**Rev. Vernon Schindler, SR Pastoral Counselor**  
belvaschin@aol.com

**T**his can't be your son; he's getting so big I hardly recognize him." When we're growing up and people haven't seen us for a while, they usually say something like this.

Parents, too, have a habit of saying about their children, "It seems like only yesterday that she was just a baby in my arms." However, growing physically is such a built-in part of our nature that we cannot stop it even if we want to stop it.

If such growing is so much a part of our physical lives, it should hardly surprise us that our spiritual lives were designed by God for growth as well. What begins as a small "seed" of faith will also grow and mature into something that will produce a noticeable change in us.

Everyone also knows that our bodily growth happens slowly. In fact, our bodies continue growing new cells all our lives. In the same manner, we also know that it takes a while for a seed to become a mighty tree which then continues growing until it dies (count the rings!). It should not surprise us that our spiritual growth will continue our entire life as well, if we remain planted in Christ.

The LWML English District 37th Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, April 22-24, 2016, will provide ample opportunities to nurture our spiritual growth through Bible study and worship, mission speakers, singing and being with sisters (and brothers) in Christ. The Philadelphia Zone LWML members are working hard to make this a growing experience for all of us as we focus on our theme "*Freely Sowing, Serving, and Sharing*" (Galatians 5:13). I thank God for each one of them and for you. ►

*Each day, we can express  
the heart of God to the needs around us.  
Like a cool, refreshing wind, the love,  
mercy, and grace of God can flow  
through us to others.*

Join us for the convention

### **SERVANT EVENTS**

Friday morning April 22nd.

Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries off-site;

Orphan Grain Train; and

Hooks and Needles, on-site!!



**[Englishdistrictlwmle.weebly.com](http://Englishdistrictlwmle.weebly.com)**

## **"Grant Proposal's to be Voted on at Convention"**

### **#1 Operation Barnabas –Calvary Lutheran Church**

The Operation Barnabas Committee at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church is involved in a program to assemble and distribute comfort bags through the Veterans Outreach Office of the Greater Harrisburg YWCA containing appropriate seasonal items for homeless female veterans and their children including pocket testaments, children's testaments and contact information about Calvary...

### **#2 Catechisms for Sudan & Sudanese Immigrants**

More than 115,000 Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees are living in the United States and Canada and are in need of hearing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in their heart language, including the Nuer, Zande, Acholi, Bari and Moru...

### **#3 It's All About the Kids**

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) serves as a trusted resource to reach, serve and support children with learning needs and their families through partnership with Christian communities...

### **#4 Missionary Work of Deaconess Rachel Powell in the Dominican Republic**

The expenses of the work carried out by Deaconess Powell on behalf of the women and children of the Dominican Republic, to bring them the living Gospel and mentor them in mercy work, in a developing country, includes expenses such as travel and food, Portals of Prayer, Bibles, and other materials to be handed out to those being evangelized; plus Bible study, catechism, and other teaching materials for weekly teaching...

### **#5 Grace Community Meals**

Grace Lutheran Church of Wyoming, Michigan, opens its church doors every Thursday evening from September to May from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to all people and offers all who come a healthy, complete meal with prayers, fellowship and Christian concern...

### **#6 Mission Teams—Computerized Support**

MOST Ministries is in need of new computer equipment which will be used by employees and volunteers to recruit short term missionaries and coordinate their training, communicate with pastors and missionaries requesting assistance, make logistical arrangements for more than 30 mission trips annually, and in maintaining and developing financial support for the programs...

### **#7 Gospel Hands VBS**

By providing Vacation Bible School for deaf and hard-of-hearing students it will enable them to "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!" (Psalm 96:3) as they learn about God's word...

## **“Primary Targets”**

*Darlene Keca, Vice-President of Organizational Resources  
d.keca@sbcglobal.net*

**W**hile preparing for convention I was reminded of the LWML English District 2013-2015 Primary Targets:

### **Nurturing Faith in Christ**

We are committed to helping every woman find personal opportunities in her daily life and in her congregation to be nurtured in faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to discover her unique gifts and value in God’s family.

### **Making Our Mission Meaningful**

We challenge and equip women of all ages, stages, ethnicities, and experiences to make a meaningful difference in the lives of hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people at home and throughout the world.

### **Sharing Encouragement**

We believe that women value the friendship, support, and encouragement from other women and strive to offer warm, welcoming opportunities for women to grow in faith and relationships as sisters in Christ.

Through Bible study, mission speakers, praise and worship, we can build upon these primary targets with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

As we gather together in Philadelphia we are given an opportunity to renew existing relationships and form new ones as we work together Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing.

I’m looking forward to seeing all of you there!►

## **Convention Festival Worship Preacher and Bible Study Leader**

Ryan Peterson currently serves as Campus Pastor and Assistant Professor of Theology at Concordia University - Ann Arbor. Prior to his service at Concordia, Pastor Ryan was a Teaching Pastor and Strategic Leader at St. John Lutheran Church in Ellisville, Missouri. He is a graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and he is currently finishing his Doctor of Ministry degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Ryan and his wife Kristy enjoy the beauty of PureMichigan, especially with their three young kids – Andrew, Kyle, and Alyssa, and are looking forward to the arrival of their fourth child in early June.

## **“Band of Sisters”**

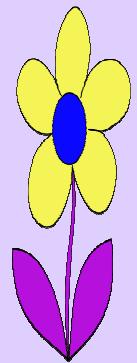
*Pat Gilde, Vice-President Christian Life/Human Care  
patqlt@verizon.net*

**F**or whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.  
Matthew 12:50 NIV

I woke up at 4:30 a.m. this morning remembering a dream I just had which was unusual because I never remember dreams. Every Wednesday morning at our church we hold a Bible Study and in the beginning we have two violin players and a bass player. In my dream they were there as well as our Bible study group who were all seated at tables that were placed in a u-shape. The music started and it was a combination of Irish Pub and Gospel. The beat of the bass made you want to stomp your feet and clap your hands but we were told to wait. Then they began to sing: “Oh, the coming of the band, Oh, the coming of the band, They are coming to this land, Oh the coming of the band.” There was this gentlemen with a glorious deep voice continuing to sing words I do not remember but it was wonderful. I even remember the tune that went with the music.

As I lay there I wondered what in the world made me dream of that. Then I realized it could be the basis for my LWML invitation. Oh, the coming of the Band of Sisters of the LWML; they are coming to this land of Philadelphia (liberty taken there) to our convention. Let us not just make it a dream, make it a reality. Come to Philadelphia and join your *Band of Sisters* of the LWML for the convention. We will have a hand-clapping, foot-stomping good time. We will worship the King. Most importantly, we will gather to make the hard choices of where are mites are to be used. We need you there. Join the *Coming of the Band*.►

**Dear Lord God,  
please make me beautiful  
inside and out today  
as You work through me  
to love and serve  
those around me!**



# Gifts from the Heart Ingathering & Convention Happenings!

The in-gathering, **Gifts from the Heart**, will be collected and used during our two on-site servant events on Friday morning, April 22. Orphan Grain Train and Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries.

## YARN:

Yarn of any type and color suitable for making scarves will be collected so members can knit or crochet Friday morning.

## SEVEN ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH HYGIENE KIT:

- 1) Wash Cloth
- 2) Bath-size Bar of Soap
- 3) Toothbrush (adult size)
- 4) Toothpaste
- 5) Sturdy Comb
- 6) Stick Deodorant
- 7) Band-Aids – (6)  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or  $\frac{3}{4}$ " size



Our goal is to complete 100 kits.

The seven items for each kit will be wrapped in bath size towels. The towels will be provided by the churches in the Philadelphia Zone.

**The greatest part of loving is giving,  
and the greatest part of giving,  
is to give with joy.**



## Pre-Convention Tour

Step aboard a Victorian-style trolley and enjoy the view as the past meets the present. An experienced tour guide will enlighten and entertain you with facts about Philadelphia's famous sights and sounds.

You can stay on the trolley throughout the tour or get on and off as you please. You will stop at 27 historic sites.

Plan to come to Philadelphia on Thursday, April 21 and tour the city of brotherly/sisterly love!!

*Liberty Bell, Old City Christ Church, Betsy Ross House, Independence Visitor Center, National Constitution Center and more...*

## Saturday Liberty Stretch



Join with your sisters in Christ, bright and early Saturday morning, 6:30 a.m., to wake your body and mind through gently stretching, yoga style.

Our instructor has been teaching preschooler's yoga for many years, and her college cheerleading team, to keep their mind and bodies happy and healthy. A wonderful way to start your day!

## Luncheon Interest Sessions

The luncheons will take place on Saturday, April 23rd. There are four choices and each one is just as good as the next. Which luncheon do you want to attend?

- Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM)  
Rev. Adam DeGroot, Missionary Pastor to PLM
- Orphan Grain Train (OGT)  
Rob Hall, Assistant Branch Manager of OGT  
Mid Atlantic Branch
- Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT)  
Rev. Nathan Esala—Translation Coordinator for LBT
- LWML Representative  
Ginger Starrett—Recording Secretary

You can read more about the interest luncheons in your convention packet and make your choice ranking them in order of preference on your registration form. The sooner we receive your registration the better your chance of getting your first choice.

## Travel Information

Flying into the Philadelphia Airport? The Embassy Suites, our convention hotel, has a 24 hour free shuttle. Once you arrive and have your bags in hand call the hotel and they will pick you up (1-215-365-4500).

More hotel and travel information can be found in your registration packets sent to all English District churches.